

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A brush holder plate comprising:
cartridges and brushes guided in the cartridges, wherein the guidance of the brushes takes place under spring loading in the radial direction towards a central aperture in the brush holder plate,[[and]] wherein the cartridges are disposed such that they can be displaced on the brush holder plate from a radially outer preassembly position into a radially inner final assembly position,
wherein holding means hold the brushes in the cartridges in a radially outer position in the preassembly position, and
wherein the holding means encompass spring tongues which are connected to the cartridges and the free ends of which act on the brushes in the preassembly position.
2. (Previously Presented) The brush holder plate according to Claim 1, wherein at least one of the cartridges and the brushes does not project more than a slight degree into the aperture in the preassembly position.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) The brush holder plate according to Claim 1[[3]], wherein the brushes do not project more than a slight degree out of the cartridges in the preassembly position.
5. (Currently Amended) The brush holder plate according to Claim 1[[3]], wherein the holding means free the brushes in the final assembly position or shortly before the latter is reached.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The brush holder plate according to Claim 1[[6]], wherein the spring tongues lie on the side of the brush holder plate which is remote from the respective brush,

wherein the free ends of the spring tongues reach through openings in the brush holder plate in the preassembly position.

8. (Previously Presented) The brush holder plate according to Claim 7, wherein the spring tongues run up against the region surrounding the respective opening and free the respective brush when the cartridges are displaced radially inwards.
9. (Previously Presented) The brush holder plate according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the cartridges are formed such that they can be fixed to the brush holder plate, in particular locked or clamped to the brush holder plate, in the final assembly position.
10. (Currently Amended) An electric motor comprising a casing, an armature shaft, a commutator disposed on the armature shaft and a brush holder plate, wherein the brush holder plate comprises cartridges and brushes guided in the cartridges, wherein the guidance of the brushes takes place under spring loading in the radial direction towards a central aperture in the brush holder plate, wherein the cartridges are disposed such that they can be displaced on the brush holder plate from a radially outer preassembly position into a radially inner final assembly position,[[and]] wherein the contact faces of the brushes act against the commutator under spring loading in the final assembly position,
wherein holding means hold the brushes in the cartridges in the radially outer preassembly position, and
wherein the holding means encompass spring tongues which are connected to the cartridges and the free ends of which act on the brushes in the radially outer preassembly position.
11. (Previously Presented) The electric motor according to Claim 10, wherein the armature shaft is supported against the casing or an end shield via a bearing element of the diameter a, wherein the diameter b of the aperture is greater than the diameter a of the bearing element.
12. (Currently Amended) A method for assembling an electric motor according to either of Claims 10 and 11, wherein the armature shaft is preassembled with the bearing element, that the brush holder plate is inserted in the casing, wherein the cartridges are in the preassembly position, that the bearing element[[(16)]] is guided through the aperture, and that the cartridges are displaced radially inwards into the final assembly position.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 12, wherein the brushes are held in the radially outer position in the cartridges by the holding means during assembly and are freed upon displacing the cartridges into the final assembly position.